

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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14-S
ACTION EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5785

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNGA PFOR KS KN CE UK FR GW
SUBJ: VARIOUS COMMENTS ON KOREAN ISSUE AT UN BY FONMIN

REF: SEOUL 5616

BEGIN SUMMARY: FONMIN ASKS IF WE HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR FRENCH;
DESCRIBES EFFORTS WITH SRI LANKANS TO CHANGE NAM DECLARATION
ON KOREA; INQUIRES AS TO USEFULNESS OF UNSYG; AND PROPOSES
POSSIBLE FRG FLOOR LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON JULY 26, FOREIGN
MINISTER PAK TONG-CHIN NOTED THAT AT THE END OF THE WEEK THE ROK
GOVERNMENT WOULD BE HOSTING A FRENCH DELEGATION HEADED BY THE MIN-
ISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. INCLUDED IN THAT DELEGATION ARE SENIOR
EAST ASIAN MEMBERS OF FRENCH FOREIGN OFFICE. THE FOREIGN
MINISTER VOLUNTEERED TO PASS ON ANY MESSAGES THAT THE US GOVERNMENT
MIGHT HAVE TO THE FRENCH CONCERNING UN ACTIVITIES. THESE MESSAGES
WOULD BE GIVEN THE FRENCH AS ROK VIEWS, NOT AS USG VIEWS. DOES
THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS THAT WE MIGHT PASS TO THE ROK
FOREIGN MINISTER?

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE SAME CONVERSATION PROVIDED
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US, ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS

BEING HELD IN COLOMBO BETWEEN THE ROK'S DEPUTY TRADE REPRESENTATIVE AND A MEMBER OF THE SRI LANKA FOREIGN MINISTRY (SEE REFTEL). THE ROK REPRESENTATIVE HAD BEEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE STATEMENT THAT SRI LANKA WAS PLANNING TO PRESENT TO THE NAM IN REGARD TO THE KOREAN ISSUE. THAT STATEMENT CONSISTS APPARENTLY OF TWO PARAGRAPHS: THE FIRST PARAGRAPH URGES RESUMPTION OF NORTH-SOUTH DISCUSSIONS AND THE SECOND CALLS FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS AND BASES FROM THE PENINSULA. THE ROK ALLEGEDLY SUGGESTED THAT THE SECOND PARAGRAPH BE DELETED ENTIRELY, (N.B. THIS IS CORRECTION OF INFO PARA 1, REFTEL). THE SRI LANKA OFFICIAL POINTED OUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS IN SYMPATHY WITH THE ROK POSITION BUT SINCE THE ISSUE OF FOREIGN TROOP PRESENCE IN THE PENINSULA HAD BEEN A MAJOR MATTER BEFORE THE NAM FOR SEVERAL YEARS, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE DELETION OF THE SECOND PARAGRAPH WAS A VIABLE PROPOSITION. THE ROK REPRESENTATIVE THEN SUGGESTED THAT THE PARAGRAPH BE AMENDED BY ADDING A CLAUSE WHICH WOULD MAKE IT OPERATIVE ONLY UPON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE PENINSULA. THE SRI LANKA OFFICIAL THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULATION AND SUGGESTED THAT THE ROK GOVERNMENT FIND AN AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO SPONSOR THAT AMENDMENT. HE THOUGHT THAT IF AN AFRICAN COUNTRY WOULD MAKE THIS SUGGESTION, THERE WOULD BE A GOOD CHANCE OF PASSAGE.

3. RNHE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO RAISED AGAIN THE POSSIBILITY OF USING SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE NORTH KOREAN SIDE AND OURS. THE AMBASSADOR QUESTIONED WHETHER THIS SUGGESTION WAS REALISTIC AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE ROK UN AMBASSADOR TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH AMBASSADOR SCRANTON.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION JULY 24 FONMIN PARK ALSO TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD RECENTLY SOUNDED GERMAN AMBASSADOR HERE ABOUT POSSIBILITY GERMANY ACTING AS FLOOR MANAGER FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION SHOULD UNGA DEBATE DEVELOP THIS YEAR ON KOREAN ISSUE. GERMANS APPARENTLY HAVE NOW COME BACK WITH FAVORABLE RESPONSE. PARK SAID HE HAD MADE CLEAR TO GERMANS THAT THIS WAS SIMPLY A SOUNDING AND THAT FINAL DECISION COULD NOT BE MADE UNTIL CORE GROUP HAD CONSIDERED THIS QUESTION. PARK AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR THAT UK WOULD ALSO BE GOOD SELECTION FOR FLOOR MANAGERSHIP, IF BRITISH PREPARED TO TAKE ON THIS ROLE.

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5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANSWER QUESTION PARA ONE.
STERN

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